Setting up of Feb-City

1355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a Feb-City in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering Hyderabad as a possible location for the proposed Fab-City;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 16.2.2006 between M/s Semlndia Inc. and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing a FAB city in Hyderabad.

(e) Does not arise.

Overseas acquisition by MTNL

1356. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL propose to acquire a stake in Chinese telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL is also looking for such a venture in African and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL is exploring the possibilities of investment in Chinese telecom market. Various telecom technologies/companies are planned to be considered for this purpose so that a decision for acquiring stake can be taken.